

# ARTICLES

TO BE  
ENQUIRED OF

Within the

ARCH-DEACONRY  
OF

Northampton,

At the Visitation of the Right Worshipfull,

John Quarles,

Doctor of Divinity, Arch-Deacon  
there, holden *Anno Dom.* 1664.

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L O N D O N,

Printed for *John Williams*, at the Crown and  
Globe in *S. Paul's Church-yard*, 1664.



*The Tenor of the Oath to be Administred  
to the Church-wardens and Side-men  
of every Parish.*

*So far as by law you are bound*  
**Y**ou shall Swear that you will, upon due  
consideration of the Articles given you  
in Charge, Present all and every such Person  
of or within your Parish, as hath committed  
any Offence mentioned in these or any of  
these Articles, or omitted any Duty therein  
exprest. And this you shall do as in the sight  
of God, uprightly and truly, without Favour  
or Malice, hope of Reward, or fear of Dis-  
pleasure. *So help you God.*







# ARTICLES

To be Inquired of


In the Arch-deaconry of NORTHAMPTON,

At the Visitation of the Right Worshipful,

**JOHN QUARLES,**

Doctor of Divinity, Arch-deacon there,  
holden 1664.

And presentment to be made thereof by the Church-wardens and Side-men for that purpose lawfully appointed in Visitations, Synods and elsewhere, within the Jurisdiction aforesaid, at any other time and place, when occasion shall be offered.

I.  Whether your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, be lawfully licensed (in writing) to Preach, and doth preach every Sunday according to the Law in that behalf.

II. Whether he doth reverently say or read Divine Service every Sunday and Holiday, and administer the Holy Sacraments according to the Book of Common Prayer, without any alteration of any part thereof.

III.

Whether

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III. Whether doth he at every time that he doth celebrate Divine publick Service, or Administer the holy Sacraments, wear the Surplice, (and also a Hood answerable to his degree, if he be a Graduate) and use and observe other the Rites and Ceremonies appointed by the Lawes now in force, and administer the holy Communion to himself kneeling, and to those onely that kneel at the time of receiving it?

IV. Whether ye have a comly Pulpit well placed within your Church, a decent Table for the holy Communion, with a fair Linen cloth to lay upon the same, and some Carpet of Silk, Stuff, or fine Woollen cloth, for the clean keeping thereof; a fair comly Communion-cup, and cover of Silver for the same, and a decent large Surplice with sleeves, one Bible of the last Translation in a large Volume, and the Book of Common Prayer, both well and substantially bound. Have ye likewise the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority: a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical: a printed Table of the degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

V. Have ye a Chest with three Locks and Keys wherein to keep the aforesaid Books, and all other the aforesaid furniture? And have ye all other necessary things appointed to be had by lawful Authority?

VI. Whether have ye the monethly Sermons at the least in your Parish Church, if your Minister be no Preacher licensed; and weekly if he be a licensed Preacher? And whether are the Homilies read when there are no Sermons?

VII. Whether is your Parson or Vicar known, or by common fame noted to have come to his Benefice by Simony, or to follow lay and secular Trades and courses: or doth he neglect or leave his calling of the Ministry, or the due performance thereof?

VIII. Whether any person not being Deacon is suffered to say Divine Service in your Church, or to administer the holy Sacraments, or to marry any persons, or to bury the dead. And whether doth any one take upon him to preach or to serve the cure with you, that doth not once in the year at



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at least celebrate Divine publick Service himself at the Church, and administer the Sacrament of the Lords Supper according to the Form of the Book of Common Prayer?

IX. Whether your Lecturer, or Preacher, or your Parson, or Vicar, though he have a Curate, yet doth he himself twice in each year on two severall Sundates both before noon and after noon celebrate Divine publick Service, and as often each year administer the holy Sacraments of Baptism and the Lords Supper?

X. Whether your Parson or Vicar be continually resident upon his Benefice, and upon his Parsonage-house or Vicarage-house: And whether he hath any more Benefices or Cures then one: And if he have, whether then doth he keep such a Curate as is a preaching Minister, lawfully licensed, upon and at the Benefice where himself your said Parson or Vicar doth not dwell, reside or continue?

XI. Whether your Parson, Vicar or Curate hath publicly or otherwise spoken against the Order or Government of the Church of England, or the Book of Common Prayer established by Law?

XII. Whether your Minister doth use to pray for the Kings most Excellent Majesty by the same Style and Title due to his Majesty?

XIII. Whether your Minister doth openly in the Church catechise such as be of convenient age, according to the order set forth in the Book of Common Prayer; and who be negligent in coming to be catechised?

XIV. Whether hath your Minister refused or delayed to Christen any child or children within your Parish, which have dyed after unbaptized, or do refuse or delay to bury any dead corps?

XV. Whether all persons above 16. years of age do repair to the Church upon Sundates and Holydaies: And whether have any absented themselves from Church, or Divine publick Service there celebrated, contrary to the Law; and how many severall times, and who hath so done?

XVI. Is there any person in your Parish, who being 16. years

years of age and well instructed in Religion, doth not receiue the Sacrament of the Lords Supper at least thre times in the year, of which Easter is alwaies to be one: Doth any in your Parish refuse to receiue the same kneeling, or from the hands of your own Minister, repairing for it to other Parishes and Ministers abroad: Or are there any strangers not of your Parish that forsake their own Churches, and usually repair to yours for it?

XVII. Do you know any that haue lost, sold, or suffered to decay or made away any of the Bells, Clock, Chimes, or other goods belonging to the Church, or do withhold any of the Church-stock, or goods: And whether any Lands, Goods or Chattels belonging to the Church be not used and employed as by Law they ought to be?

XVIII. Do ye know any common Swearer, Drunkard, or Blasphemer, any Simoniackal person, any guilty of Fornication, Adultery or Incest, or any vehemently suspected, or by common fame noted or infamed of any such crimes?

XIX. Whether do any practise Physick or Chirurgery, or doth any School-master teach either openly or privately in any School, Gentlemens houses, or otherwise, or any Curate serue the Cure within your Parish, without licence of his Ordinary, under his authentick Seal, or no?

XX. Do ye know any person excommunicated in your Parish: Doth your Minister denounce him and all other excommunicated persons in your Parish Church or Chappell: And whether doth any such excommunicated person repair to the Church to hear Divine Service or Sermons: And whether any of your Parish doth keep company with, or set on work such excommunicated person, and what be their names that do so?

XXI. Whether your Church or Chancel, or the Steeple, Bells, Seats, Leads, Pavements, Glasse-windows, Roof or Walls of the same, or the Parsonage or Vicarage houses be ruinous or decayed, and by whose default. Whether is your Church-yard cleanly kept, and the walls and bounds of your Church-yard in good and sufficient repair?

XXII. Do ye know of any that use Conventicles or Meetings



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things for expounding of Scriptures or saying of Prayers in private houses or places?

XXIII. Do you know in your Parish any receivers of Jesuites, Seminary or Massing Priests; and what be the names and surnames of all Recusants or half Recusants that come not to Church to hear Divine Service, or if they do, that yet do not receive the Holy Communion as by Law they ought?

XXIV. Whether have you any in your Parish married within the degrees of consanguinity or affinity forbidden by the Law, or have been married without the publick asking of Banns thence there, or without licence, or being contracted do likewise suspiciously without Marriage?

XXV. Whether have any quarrelled, brawled, fought or used violence in your Church or Churchyard; or have kept open their shop-windows or Doors, or sold or bought any Wares upon Sundays or Holydaies in the time of Divine Service; or have received any into their House to eat, drink or play in the time of Sermon or Divine Service, or have administered upon the goods of the dead without authority from the Ordinary, or detain any Legacies given to the poor, or to Religious uses?

XXVI. Whether the Register Book of Marriages, Christenings and Burials within your Parish be made of Parchment, duly kept and subscribed, and other things concerning the same be observed according to the Canons made and established by Authority in that behalf?

XXVII. Whether in the Rogation-week the Perambulation in your Parish is gone yearly, as by Law it ought? And if not, by whose default is it neglected?

XXVIII. Doth every person reverently uncover his head and so continue all the time of Divine Service and Sermon in the Church? Do they all reverently kneel at the Prayers, and stand up when the Creed and Gospel are read, making due reverence when the Name of our Lord Jesus is mentioned?

XXIX. Do any come late or negligently to Church to publick Prayers, or depart before Divine Service or Sermon is ended?

XXX. Are the fifth of November, the thirtieth of January, and the twenty ninth of May observed according as is ordained in that behalf?

XXXI. Are there any Married women in your Parish, who, after their delivery from the peril of child-birth refuse to make their publick thanksgivings to God in the Church? And when they come so to do, do they come decently apparelled, and make their offerings according to custom?

XXXII. Whether have your old Church-wardens omitted to make a true and perfect account to the Parish of their said Office? Have ye a Book wherein to write down the Church-wardens accounts? as also another Book wherein are Registered or written the names of all strangers that preach in your Parish? and is it kept, and used, and subscribed according to Law in that behalf?

XXXIII. Have any Trees been felled or cut down in your Church-yard, and by whom?

XXXIV. Is there a sufficient Terrar of all the Glebeland belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage, and exhibited into the Registers Office, as by Law it ought?

XXXV. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer a man of a sober, unblamable and exemplary life? or is he a frequenter of Taverns or Ale-houses, a common Gamester, a prophane or obscene Jester, a Swearer, Rayler, Scoffer, or Quarreller? doth he set Neighbours at Variance one with another, or encourage them to suits and contention? Is he noted to be an Intemperate Drinker, or vehemently suspected of Incontinency with any person either within your Parish, or without? Is his apparel grave and decent, both for fashion and colour as the Canons of the Church require? or is his carriage and conversation in any kind whatsoever disorderly or scandalous, and unbecoming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

XXXVI. Doth any of your Parish refuse to pay to the Clerk or Sexton such wages or dues as have been to them accustomedly paid?

XXXVII. Whether have any unreverently used your Minister, or laid violent hands upon him, or disgraced his Office or Calling by word or deed.

XXXVIII.



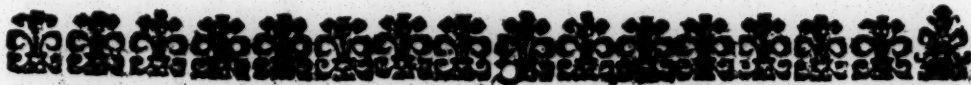
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XXXVIII. Are there any belonging to your Parish who refuse to pay their duty for Easter-Offerings to your Minister? or any that refuse to contribute and pay the rate Assessed upon them for the repair of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such Books Furniture and Ornaments as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices there?

XXXIX. Do any abuse the Church-wardens or Eldermen of your Parish, or give them ill words for doing their Office according to their Oath and Duty?

XL. Whether do ye know any other matter worthy of presentment above not exprest, the Reformation whereof belonging to the Ecclesiastical Courts, which you are likewise to present by vertue of your Oaths, with the names and surnames of all such as have in them, or in any of them offended, or by common fame are thought to have offended?



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